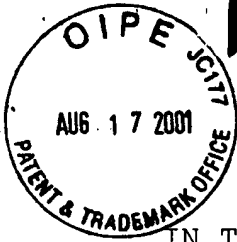


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
Timothy W. SYNOLD, et al.)
Serial No. 09/815,300) Examiner: To be assigned
Filed: March 23, 2001) Art Unit: 1635
For: METHODS FOR MODULATING DRUG CLEARANCE
MECHANISMS BY ALTERING SXR ACTIVITY)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following amendments prior to examination
on the merits of the above-identified application.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 33, 45 and add claims 63-67 as follows.

A1
33. (Amended) A method of claim 31 which comprises monitoring
SXR activity in cells *in vivo* or *in vitro*.

A2
45. (Amended) A drug identified by a method of any of claims 27-
31 and 44.

A3
--63. A method of claim 1 or 4 wherein placental xenobiotic
exposure of a fetus is altered.